

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 NEA-10 ISO-00 AGR-20 CIAE-00 COME-00

INR-10 LAB-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SPC-03 STR-08 TRSE-00

CIEP-02 OMB-01 OIC-04 SS-15 NSC-10 L-03 PA-03 PRS-01

USIA-15 DRC-01 /136 W

----- 004387

R 031800Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7153

INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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TOKYO FOR AMBASSADOR MOYNIHAN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IN

SUBJ: PRIME MINISTER ON BIG POWERS, FOREIGN INFLUENCE

REF: A) NEW DELHI 10841; B) NEW DELHI 11535

SUMMARY: THE PRIME MINISTER HAS CONTINUED TO PLAY ON THE NATIONALIST THEMES OF INDEPENDENCE FROM BIG POWERS AND THE DANGER OF FOREIGN INTERFERENCE, BUT IN A LOW KEY. EXCEPT FOR COMMUNISTS AND OTHERS ON THE FAR LEFT, FEW SO FAR HAVE TAKEN UP THE THEME. END SUMMARY.

1. FOLLOWING HER INSINUATION ABOUT A FOREIGN HAND IN CHILE AND THE DANGER POSED BY OUTSIDE INFLUENCES (REF A), THE PRIME MINISTER REPORTEDLY SAID IN KASHMIR SEPTEMBER 28 THAT " POWERFUL FORCES" HAD TRIED TO DIVERT INDIA FROM ITS SOCIALIST LINE.

A "TIMES OF INDIA" REPORT QUOTING HER AS ACCUSING BIG POWERS OF

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HAVING SPENT HUGE AMOUNTS OF MONEY IN THIS ALLEGED EFFORT WAS

NOT CARRIED ELSEWHERE. IN A SRINAGAR PRESS CONFERENCE THE FOLLOWING DAY, IN RESPONSE TO A QUERY ABOUT HER COMMENTS ON CHILE (REF A), THE PRIME MINISTER REPORTEDLY AVERRED THAT THE DANGER FROM INTERNATIONAL CORPORATIONS AND SOME GOVERNMENTS WAS "TOO WELL KNOWN" TO REQUIRE ELABORATION. SHE NOTED THAT SHE HAD HAD THAT APPREHENSION IN MIND WHEN EARLIER DISCUSSING POSSIBLE COLLUSION BETWEEN EXTERNAL AND INTERNAL SUBVERSIVE FORCES.

2. ON A CAMPAIGN TOUR OF WESTERN UTTAR PRADESH, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID IN GARHWAL OCTOBER 1 THAT BIG POWERS WERE OUT TO INFLUENCE WEAK COUNTRIES. SHE STATED THAT SOVEREIGN INDIA HAS ITS OWN PLACE IN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES AND WOULD ACT INDEPENDENTLY, NEITHER INFLUENCING NOR BEING INFLUENCED BY OTHERS (REF B). LAYING THE FOUNDATION STONE OF A SOVIET-AIDED REFINERY AT MATHURA OCTOBER 2, THE PRIME MINISTER EXPRESSED THANKS FOR THE SOVIET WHEAT LOAN, WHICH HAD BEEN OFFERED "WITHOUT OUR ASKING FOR IT". INDIA, SHE SAID, HAD NEVER BEEN UNDER SOVIET PRESSURE TO SAY OR DO ANYTHING. INDO-SOVIET FRIENDSHIP DID NOT PRECLUDE FRIENDSHIP WITH OTHERS, WHICH INDIA ALSO DESIRED; NONETHELESS, IF OTHERS (UNSPECIFIED) DID NOT WANT TO BE FRIENDS, INDIA WAS STRONG ENOUGH TO GO AHEAD WITHOUT THEIR GOOD WISHES.

3. THE TWO COMMUNIST PARTIES HAVE OF COURSE PLAYED UP THE PRIME MINISTER'S EARLIER COMMENTS ON THE MORAL OF CHILEAN DEVELOPMENTS FOR INDIA. FOR THEM, THIS IS NO MORE THAN A NEW TWIST ON AN OLD THEME. AMONG CONGRESS LEFTISTS, PARTY GENERAL SECRETARY YADAV HAS HEWED TO THE PRIME MINISTER'S LINE--IMPLICATION BUT NOT ACCUSATION OF US INVOLVEMENT. OTHER LEADING CONGRESSMEN HAVE BEEN SUBDUED.

4. COMMENT: THE PRIME MINISTER'S REPORTED STATEMENTS OVER THE LAST WEEK ARE CONSONANT WITH THOSE SHE HAS MADE OVER THE YEARS ON THE BIG POWERS AND OUTSIDE INFLUENCE. THAT OTHER CONGRESSMEN HAVE YET TO TAKE UP HER THEME IN FULL VOICE PROBABLY MEANS ONLY THAT THEY ARE WAITING TO SEE HOW FAR SHE GOES. AS ELECTIONS APPROACH IN UTTAR PRADESH AND ORISSA, CONGRESSMEN MAY BE UNDER PRESSURE FROM THE COMMUNISTS AND OTHER LEFTISTS TO PROVE THEIR RADICALISM BY STRIKING VERBAL BLOWS

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AT THE WEST, ESPECIALLY THE US.
SCHNEIDER

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